A NEW SPECIES OF SENECIO (SECT. PALMATINERVII) FROM DURANGO, MEXICO

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Recent collections from Durango, Mexico, by Ms. Gonzalez and coworkers have revealed the following novelty.

Senecio gesnerifolius B. L. Turner, sp. nov.

Differt a <u>S. neogibsonii</u> habitu fruticoso foliis serrulatoire et capitulis ampliore.

Suffruticose herb or shrub ca 2 m high. Stems densely white tomentose. Leaves alternate, 10-15 cm long, 3-4 cm wide; petioles 2.0-2.5 cm long, densely tomentose; blades elliptical to elliptic-obovate, thick and somewhat fleshy, pinnately veined, nearly glabrous on both surfaces except along the major veins, the margins irregularly serrulate. Heads ca 18 in terminal, somewhat rounded, corymbose panicles, ca 4 cm high and 7 cm wide. Involucre narrowly campanulate, 7-8 mm high, ca 7 mm across (pressed) with a well-defined calyculum of 6-8 subulate bracts 1-2 mm long; innermost bracts 11-13 in 2 subequal series, glabrous, acute, somewhat gibbose below. Ray florets 5 or 6; corollas yellow, the tube ca 5 mm long, glabrous, the ligules 6-7 mm long, 2.5-3.0 mm wide. Disk florets ca 18; corollas yellow, tubular, glabrous, ca 8 mm long, the throat ca 3.5 mm long, the lobes acute ca 0.8 mm long. Anthers yellow, ca 3 mm long, the appendages longer than wide. Style branches abruptly rounded, hispidulous. Achenes columnar, ca 2 mm long, glabrous, with ca 5 duct-like ribs; pappus of ca 50 white, fragile, bristles 5-7 mm long.

TYPE: MEXICO. DURANGO: Mpio. de Mezquital, 26.5 km de La Guajolota por el camino a Platanitos, bosque de enzinopino, 2610 m, 15 Mar 1985, M. Gonzalez et al. 1677 (holotype TEX; isotypes to be distributed).

Senecio gesnerifolius belongs to the section Palmatinervii as envisioned by Barkley (1985) but would belong to the genus Roldana as conceived by Robinson and Brettell (1975). It apparently has no very obvious relatives among the described taxa of Mexico but I believe it is close to the recently described S. neogibsonii (Turner, 1985) from Veracruz, Mexico. The present novelty differs in its shrubby habit, more serrulate leaves and larger heads with larger rays.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The figure was provided by Dr. L. Vorobik and the Latin diagnosis by Dr. G. Nesom.

LITERATURE CITED

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Fig. I. <u>Senecio</u> gesnerifolius, from holotype